

AGENDA ITEM VI A 1

**PROGRESS REPORT ON A CONDITIONALLY APPROVED
PROGRAM**

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY IN SHREVEPORT

M.S. IN HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At its meeting on September 25, 2002, the Board of Regents took the following action:

Conditional approval is granted for the proposed M.S. in Health Care Administration (CIP Code 51.0702) at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, effective January, 2003. Beginning August 1, 2003, and on that date each year thereafter until ACEHSA accreditation has been achieved, the University shall submit to the Commissioner of Higher Education a report addressing the following issues:

- 1. Adequacy of faculty resources;**
- 2. Offering of required courses in an appropriate rotation;**
- 3. Sufficiency of budget; and**
- 4. Progress toward achieving ACEHSA accreditation.**

STAFF ANALYSIS

1. Adequacy of Faculty Resources

As was suggested by the University itself in its response to the Report of the External Consultants, the University hired a Ph.D. in public administration/health administration at the associate level to “conduct applied research, teach the health economics course, coordinate the program, and obtain accreditation of the program.”

The University also reported that “faculty (full-time, adjunct, and gratis clinical) have been identified for all courses in the program.”

2. Offering of Required Courses in an Appropriate Rotation

The External Review Committee (ERC) did not evaluate course rotation because the University’s course rotation plan was submitted after the ERC issued its report. The ERC did offer the following general evaluation standards, which the staff has applied:

The required course sequence should ensure a logical progression from introductory courses to advanced courses. The course sequence should ensure that students have sufficient theoretical grounding in the field to benefit maximally from the more applied courses in the curriculum. Also, a grounding in statistics and spreadsheet programming skills must logically precede the accounting, financial management, and operations research courses.

The University's course rotation plan specifies courses offered per semester and during summer sessions during odd and even years. New cohorts of students are admitted to the program twice during the year (spring, summer). It appears that the plan contains enough duplication of course offerings across semesters to accommodate two cohorts simultaneously. It also appears that general/theoretical coursework precedes that which is specific/applied, at least in content areas where appropriate sequencing is a relevant criterion.

As for grounding in statistics and spreadsheet programming skills, the University does require that students complete coursework in Human Resource Management, Organizational Behavior, Microeconomics, Operational Research, and Managerial Accounting (or Advanced Financial Management) prior to registering for any course in this program. Spreadsheet skills are addressed by the Managerial Accounting prerequisite, which itself requires an introductory course that addresses such skills. The staff also notes that HCAD 716 (Statistical Analysis & Decision Making) precedes HCAD courses in operational research and finance (750 and 760, respectively).

3. Sufficiency of Budget

The University reported that the Institute to which the program belongs "is pursuing a very vigorous applied health care research program which \$80,000 in contracts since July 1, 2003." This is in addition to the funds supporting the program from the University, which the University reports as "totaling over \$100,000 per year." A copy of the complete program budget is attached.

4. Progress Toward Achieving ACEHSA Accreditation

The University reported that its Office of Academic Affairs is currently revising a draft of its preliminary application for ACEHSA accreditation. To be considered, the program must first graduate two classes of students. The University reports that "our first class of fifteen students started in January 2003, and another class of fifteen began in August 2003." Thus, the earliest the program could achieve accreditation by ACEHSA is 2007.

STAFF SUMMARY

Faculty are qualified and sufficient in number; coursework in health economics is now offered by resident faculty. The plan for course rotation appears to be adequate and consistent with general standards specified by the External Review Committee. Financial support for the program appears to be sufficient, and external support for the program has grown substantially. Progress toward ACEHSA accreditation is being made.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee receive the 2002-03 Progress Report Relative to Implementation of the M.S. in Health Care Administration at Louisiana State University-Shreveport. The next progress report shall be due August 1, 2004.